

was the one who did all the judges for us. He is someone who knows what is going on.

We have made presentation after presentation to no avail. Senator DODD has spent weeks of his time on this issue. This is not a tort reform issue. It is an issue to allow insurance companies to sell terrorism insurance to allow construction projects to go forward in Las Vegas and other places in the country.

The insurance companies, as they are good at doing, have jacked up the prices so it is hard to get insurance. This legislation is an effort to allow them to receive some help if, in fact, there is an act of terrorism.

My office spoke with people when they complained about this: We had tremendous pressure from the White House to sign on to this advertisement. What is this all about, pressure to sign on to something that is false, misleading, untrue?

When President George Bush was campaigning, he said he was going to change the tone in Washington. I have been in Washington a long time now. I have never seen the tone this way. During the Reagan years, there were some disagreements, but what a fine person to get along with. He and his people were easy to get along with. Here we cannot get along—it is very tough. The atmosphere is extremely difficult. Change the tone? He has changed the tone, there is no question about that, but it is for the worse. I guess he just did not complete his sentence in all the debates and other statements he made. This is a very venomous environment.

Legislation is the art of compromise. I personally do not think this legislation dealing with terrorism insurance should have anything to do with tort reform, but they have forced the issue. The compromise has some tort reform in it. Legislation is a compromise. The White House has been unwilling to compromise, unwilling to meet. They are now putting pressure on lobbyists to fund full-page ads, pro-Bush ads in the Post and more pressure on congressional Republicans to do anything they can to stop this legislation.

I know, I have had friends on the other side tell me they do not want this legislation; they do not think it is necessary. But why not do it like adults? Stand up and say this is bad legislation, not have this charade.

If anyone is truly interested in the real White House strategy, read the story in the New York Times today about this legislation:

Mr. Bush's push for the measure reflects a no-lose political strategy. If Congress reaches an agreement on the measure, he can rightly claim credit for it. If it fails, he can blame Congressional Democrats, and in particular the Senate majority leader, Tom Daschle, for the failure.

That is what it is all about. I believe people of the State of Nevada deserve more; the people of this country deserve more. I have no problem when there are honest disagreements on leg-

islation, but I have been on the ground, so to speak. I have watched this; I have been right here; I have been making the unanimous consent requests. Over the month, I bet I have offered 25 unanimous consent requests right from here. There were objections to appointment of conferees and getting the bill to the floor. But to have this:

We agree, Mr. President, there's too much at stake. . . .

Congress, why the delay?

The time is now. Pass Terrorism Insurance Legislation.

Six months ago, the President in 30 seconds could have had the legislation on his desk, but this has been a big stall to make the trial lawyers look like the enemy of the American people, and that simply is wrong.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended until 4 o'clock today, with Senators allowed to speak therein, for a period not to exceed 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask that I might proceed for no more than 5 minutes as though in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are in morning business.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the distinguished Presiding Officer.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR STROM THURMOND

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I pay tribute to a colleague of ours whose career of public service may never be matched again in the history of our country. My friend STROM THURMOND sits on the other side of the aisle of the Senate Chamber, but I consider him a friend with whom I have worked closely, and I will miss him.

I remember when I was first sworn into the Senate in January of 1975. Because of a tied vote in the State of New Hampshire that election year, it was a matter that did not get resolved until we actually went back and did the election over in the middle of the year. I was the most junior Member of a 99-Member Senate. We did not have the Hart Building at the time. We had the Russell Building and the Dirksen Building, and a couple of us very junior Members were in basement offices. Senator Garn of Utah, Senator Laxalt of Nevada, and I were down in the dun-

geons. When we were sworn in, I had a small reception down there. I invited Members of the Senate to come, not thinking that anybody would actually show up. There were far more noteworthy people being sworn in that day, some to begin subsequent terms, others newly elected.

I remember standing there with my mother and father, and one of the very first people to come through that door was STROM THURMOND, walking arm in arm with John Stennis of Mississippi. I remember STROM welcoming me to the Senate and telling my mother and father I seemed like a nice young man, and that I might actually have a career ahead of me.

I note that has been the routine of STROM THURMOND, to welcome new Senators from either party. He has done it with hundreds of Senators. This one remembers it well.

We often worked in the field of anti-trust laws. We worked together on the National Cooperative Production amendments of 1993, the very first high-technology bill signed by President Clinton, and to improve the protections against anticompetitive conduct in the Digital Performance Right in Sound Recordings Act.

Senator THURMOND has been a legislator. I must admit, when Senator THURMOND and I have worked together, it has raised some eyebrows, and when we have introduced legislation together, some have remarked that either it is brilliant legislation or one of us has not gotten around to reading it. But there are so many issues that we did join together. Of course, there have been occasions when he and I have sat on opposite sides of an issue, but even though there were issues about which we felt deeply, Senator THURMOND always conducted himself with the utmost integrity. He has always told the Senate how he felt. He has done so with the people of South Carolina first and foremost in his mind.

I recall him inviting me down to talk to the STROM THURMOND Institute at Clemson. He wanted to put on a debate on economic matters. He had an impartial moderator from the Heritage Foundation. When I walked in, I saw half the Republican party of South Carolina and the Heritage Foundation. I knew I was to be the sacrificial lamb, and I was loving every minute of it. When they stated how much time would be allotted, he stated he should have twice as much time as I because I spoke twice as fast as he did.

We had a very good meeting. I am sure I did not change his mind, or most of the minds of the audience, on a couple of issues. We walked out of there arm in arm, laughing, having a good time. I remember a couple of days later STROM coming on the floor and slapping me on the back and saying, I want to thank the king of Vermont, as he said, for going down with him.

One of the strangest meetings during that time was when we were in the Senate dining room and I introduced